

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 RSC-01 EUR-06

/031 W

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R 171600Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1501

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 0587

PLEASE PASS TOM FLAHERTY IN SENATOR PERCY'S OFFICE - DAMASCUS

PLEASE PASS TO SENATOR PERCY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OREP (PERCY, CHARLES)

SUBJECT: SENATOR PERCY'S CAIRO PRESS CONFERENCE JAN 16

REF: CAIRO 0516

FOLLOWING ARE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PORTIONS OF SENATOR
PERCY'S PRESS CONFERENCE CONDUCTED AT THE EMBASSY JANUARY 16:

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EFFECT OF SECRETARY
KISSINGER'S STATEMENT, AND MORE RECENTLY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S
STATEMENT, NOT EXCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE USE OF MILI-
TARY FORCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, SENATOR PERCY REPLIED: "WITH
PRESIDENT SADAT, THAT (AN EXPLANATION) WAS NECESSARY...
BUT IN EVERY SINGLE COUNTRY THAT I HAVE BEEN, IT'S EITHER
BEEN THE FIRST OR SECOND QUESTION ASKED BY THE RULERS
OF THOSE COUNTRIES...I FOUND CONSIDERABLE MISUNDERSTAN-
DINGWHICH WAS CLARIFIED, I THINK, WHEN I URGED ALL OF
THE RULERS IN THE AREA TO READ THE FULL TEXT OF THE
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STATEMENT AND TO APPRAISE AND JUDGE IT THEN IN THE LIGHT

OF THE CONTEXT IN WHICH IT SHOULD APPEAR...I THINK THE SECRETARY WAS VERY FORTHRIGHT IN CLARIFYING SOME OF THOSE MATTERS WHICH ARE THE POSITIVE SIDES OF THE INTERVIEW. I THINK THE FIRST OBJECTIVE OF THE SECRETARY WAS TO CLARIFY ONCE AND FOR ALL THE SUGGESTION, THAT HAS BEEN MADE, THAT WE WOULD NOT CONSIDER THE USE OF FORCE OR POLITICAL WARFARE TO BRING DOWN THE PRICE OF OIL. I THINK THAT THE SECRETARY FELT THAT THIS WAS ESSENTIAL SINCE THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE CRITICIZED US FOR BEING TOO SOFT ON THE PRICE ISSUE, AND BY THEIR STATEMENTS, HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPRESSION THAT WE MIGHT CONTEMPLATE SUCH ACTION. WE HAVE REJECTED THAT ACTION WITH RESPECT TO OIL PRICES. WE HAVE REJECTED EMBARGOS OR OUR OWN RESTRICTIONS ON SHIPMENTS WHETHER IT BE FOOD OR MACHINERY. WE WILL NOT BE ENGAGED OR ARE GOING TO BE ENGAGED IN ECONOMIC WARFARE. WE WANT COOPERATION NOT CONFRONTATION, SECONDLY, I THINK THE SECRETARY WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT ANTICIPATING AN OIL EMBARGO...THIRDLY, I BELIEVE THE SECRETARY WANTED TO PUT IN RESPONSIBLE CONTEXT AND PERSPECTIVE AN ISSUE ABOUT WHICH THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH LOOSE AND IRRESPONSIBLE TALK IN THE WORLD AND MAKE CLEAR THAT THE U.S., AS A POWER, IS CONSCIOUS OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR WORLD PEACE AND COOPERATION AND IS NOT GOING TO ACT RECKLESSLY. AFTER THE SEVERE CRITICISM OF THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION FOR ITS LACK OF CANDOR, I THINK THAT THE SECRETARY WANTED TO TRY TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT WERE PUT TO HIM. HE COULD HAVE SIMPLY SAID THAT IT'S SUCH A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION THAT I AM NOT EVEN GOING TO ANSWER IT. BUT HE TRIED TO ANSWER IT, AND IN SO DOING HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE DOES NOT ENVISION SUCH CONDITIONS EXISTING. WOULD OPEC, FOR INSTANCE, WANT TO SEE AN ECONOMIC CATASTROPHE IN THE WORLD? WOULD THEY RATIONALLY WANT TO BRING THAT ABOUT, AND WOULDN'T WE TAKE MEASURES JOINTLY AND COOPERATIVELY TO HEAD THAT OFF IF IT LOOKED LIKE AN ADJUSTMENT COULD NOT BE MADE BY ANY OTHER MEANS TO THE NEW PRICE LEVELS OF OIL? WE ARE GOING TO GET TOGETHER, CONSUMER AND PRODUCER COUNTRIES AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, AND THAT IS THE POSITIVE SIDE OF THIS MESSAGE."

2. ASKED WHY THERE HAD BEEN NO FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROPOSED NUCLEAR REACTOR FOR EGYPT, SENATOR PERCY REPLIED, "I THINK THAT THAT SHOULD BE A MATTER FOR THE COMMISSION (AEC) TO WORK OUT. OBVIOUSLY THERE IS NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT EGYPT WOULD BE WILLING AND READY TO ENTER INTO ANY SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS THAT WOULD BE NEEDED AND NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT AND CARRY OUT SUCH A PROGRAM."

3. WHEN FURTHER QUESTIONED ON WHETHER HE WOULD VOTE FOR

SUPPLYING A NUCLEAR REACTOR TO EGYPT, SENATOR PERCY SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT WANT TO VOTE ON IT UNTIL HE KNEW WHAT ALL THE FACTORS ARE. "I DO NOT WANT TO CREATE A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION AND I DO NOT HAVE ALL THE FACTORS. I TAKE A RATHER DIM VIEW OF ENTERING INTO THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE COULD HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONRY IN THE MID EAST. THE IMPLICATION IS SO STRONG THAT THAT POSSIBILITY COULD EXIST AND I'D RATHER AVOID IT IF WE POSSIBLY CAN. IF IT IS INEVITABLE THAT NUCLEAR ENERGY IS NEEDED TO FULLY DEVELOP THE CAPABILITIES AND THE CAPACITIES OF THE AREA, AND IF IT IS EVIDENT THAT WE HAVE RESOLVED OUR PROBLEMS THROUGH A STEP BY STEP NEGOTIATING PROCEDURE AND THERE IS A STABLE AND LASTING PEACE OFFERED IN THE MID EAST, I THINK WE OUGHT TO TREAT IT AS WE WOULD ANY OTHER AREA IN THE WORLD."

4. WHEN ASKED ABOUT WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED LANDS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE OF PALESTINE, SENATOR PERCY SAID, "I THINK WITHDRAWAL IS INEVITABLE AND I THINK EVENTUALLY -- WHY NOT BEGIN THIS PROCESS NOW? OBVIOUSLY, WHEN YOU ARE IN THE STEP BY STEP STAGE, NEGOTIATIONS ARE HINDERED IF ONE PARTY TO THOSE NEGOTIATIONS OFFERS TO TAKE A NEXT STEP AND THE OTHER PARTY SAYS, WELL IN ORDER FOR US TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP, WE WANT YOU TO TAKE THE ULTIMATE STEP. BIT IF BOTH SIDES ARE WILLING TO NOW START TO TAKE STEPS, THAN I THINK YOU CAN ARRIVE AT A SATISFACTORY ANSWER AND THE STEP BY STEP WILL WORK. I HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT IT WILL WORK. WITH RESPECT TO THE STATE OF PALESTINE, THERE ARE CERTAIN ASSURANCES THAT MUST BE PROVIDED TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THIS. AND THE ASSURANCES MUST BE, IF A STATE OF PALESTINE IS CREATED, THAT IT WOULD NOT BE A THREAT TO ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS WHETHER THEY BE ARAB COUNTRIES OR ISRAEL. WOULD THE ASSURANCES, UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT I UNDERSTAND HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY ARAFAT IN RABAT, BE ABSOLUTELY SUPPORTED AND GUARANTEED BY OTHERS UPON WHOM SUCH A STATE OF PALESTINE WOULD DEPEND FOR ASSISTANCE AND HELP OF ALL KINDS THAT ARE NEEDED BY A NEW STATE RESTORING ITSELF?...I HAVE BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH THE ASSURANCES I HAVE HAD THAT EVERY ARAB COUNTRY THAT I HAVE VISITED WOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE TO SEE THAT THERE IS MODERATION ON EVERY SIDE. WHAT WE ALL HAVE IN COMMON IS TO QUELL THE EXTREMISTS AND RADICALS WHETHER THEY BE IN EGYPT, WHETHER THEY BE IN ISRAEL, OR WHETHER THEY WILL BE IN A FUTURE STATE OF PALESTINE. IT IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE TO PERMIT THAT SITUATION TO GET OUT OF HAND."

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 RSC-01 EUR-06

/031 W

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R 171600Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1502

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USIA WASHDC

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PLEASE PASS TOM FLAHERTY IN SENATOR PERCY'S OFFICE - DAMASCUS PLEASE
PASS TO SENATOR PERCY

5. IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY, SENATOR PERCY IS RESPONSE TO
FURTHER QUESTIONING ABOUT THE CREATION OF A STATE OF
PALESTINE, REPLIED, "I CAN ENVISION SUCH A STATE (OF
PALESTINE) BEING CREATED UNDE THE RIGHT CONDITIONS."

6. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE INEVITABILITY
OF A FIFTH ARAB-ISRAELI WAR, SENATOR PECY STATED:
"MR. ARAFAT HAS SAID IT IS INEVITABLE, AND I DO NOT
ACCEPT IT AS INEVITABLE. I REJECT IT. IF MISTAKES
ARE MADE BY BOTH SIDES, THE POSSIBILITY ALWAYS EXISTS.
ALL I KNOW IS THAT ALL THE RESOURCES, ALL THE ENERGY AND
ALL THE INFLUENCE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ARE DEVOTED TO
AVERTING THAT POSSIBILITY. IT WILL BE A TOTAL FAILURE
OF EVERY EFFORT ON ALL SIDES IF A FIFTH CONFLICT SOMEHOW
BROKE OUT. IT IS MY OPE, IN A SMALL WAY, THAT I CAN
REINFORCE THE EFFORTS OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO AVOID THAT
CONFLCT THROUGH MISUNDERSTANDING AND THROUGH MISCAL-
CULATIONS. CERTAINLY WE WANT TO WRN AS DECISIVELY AND
CLEARLY AS WE CAN THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT CONFLICT
WILL BE BORNE BY THE NATIONOR NATIONS THAT MIGHT MAKE
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THAT INEVITABLE AND FATEFUL NEXT STEP THAT WOULD CREATE THE CONDITIONS THAT WOULD BRING ABOUT A FIFTH WAR IN THE MID EAST. I THINK IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF SUPPORTING OUR FRIENDS RIGHT OR WRONG. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE WHO IS RIGHT AND WHO IS WRONG AND SUPPORT THE SIDE OF THE RIGHT. I THAT WE ANTICIPATE, AND I PERSONALLY ANTICIPATE, THAT WE WILL BE UTTERLY FAIR, AND, I HOPE, ALWAYS JUST IN MAKING THAT JUDGEMENT. NO ONE CAN COUNT ON OUR SUPPORT RIGHT OR WRONG."

7. ASKED WHETHER HIS PERSPECTIVE ON THE ISSUES IN THE MID EAST HAS CHANGED AS A RESULT OF HIS VISIT THROUGH THE MID EAST, SENATOR PERCY REPLIED, "MY PERSPECTIVE HAS CHANGED IN SOME RESPECTS. WHAT I SAID (TO MRS. MEIR BEFORE LEAVING WASHINGTON) HAS BEEN REIN ORCED NOW AS A RESULT OF THE TRIP. BUT I HAVE GAINED OTHER VALUABLE INSIGHTS.

8. TALKING ABOUT HIS VISIT TO ISRAEL, SENATOR PERCY SAID, "I WILL GO TO ISRAEL AS A FRIEND. THEY LOOK UPON ME AS A FRIEND FOR THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS. I HAVE ALWAYS MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT IT'S A FDBJECT OF DEFINIATION JD TO WHAT IS LEGITIMATE. WE MIGHT DIFFER SOMETIMES ON THAT, BUT I GO AS A DEMONSTRATED FRIEND OF THE PAST AND I AM A FRIEND OF ISRAEL TODAY AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, WHO HAD THEIR OWN DEEP YEARNING FOR THEIRZJTRFZABUI

.
WTRHEST
PALESTINIANS HAVE
TODAY. BUT THEY MUST UNDERSTAND THAT
THE PALESTINIANS ARE ASKING FOR A RESTORATION OF A STATE OF PALESTINE WHERE ISRAEL DID NOT HAVE SUCH A SOVEREIGN STATE BEFORE. SO THEY SOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THAT DEEP LONGING THAT I HAVE HEARD FROM PALESTINIANS ALL OVER THE ARAB WORLD."

9. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE SOVIET UNION IN NEGOTIATIONS, RETURN TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND GENERAL OUTLOOK IN THE MIDDLE EAST, SENATOR PERCY SAID:
"I SHOULD HOPE THAT THE RESPONSIBLE LEADERS IN THE SOVIET UNION WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CREATE
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THE CLIMATE FOR PEACE AND BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE EFFORTS BEING MADE BY ALL OF THOSE, ON BOTH SIDES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES." "I HAVE NOT AVOIDED IT (THE GENEVA CONFERENCE) INTENTIONALLY. IT IS THE POSITION AND

POSURE OF OUR GOVERNMENT THAT THE STEP BY STEP PROGRAM CAN WORK, IS THE EASIEST FRAMEWORK IN WHICH TO MAKE IT WORK, AND IT'S THE MOST DIRECT CONTACT." "I THINK THAT WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE IN PRIME MINISTER RABIN A MAN OF RA-TIONALITY AND MODERATION WHO IS ABLE TO QUELL THE HAWKS IN ISRAEL. BUT HE MUST DO SO BY PROGRESS JUST AS PRESIDENT SADAT PROVIDES THE UNIQUE SITUATION THAT I WILL URGE ISRAEL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF, TOGETHER WITH GENIUS AND DEVOTION OF SECRETARY KISSINGER, PRESIDENT FORD AND VICE-PRESIDENT ROCKEFER AND, I THINK, BACKED BY THE CONGRESS IN THIS EFFORT. I THINK THESE INGREDIENTS ARE THE ONES THAT WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTGE OF NOW. TIME IS NOT IN OUR FAVOR IN DELAYING THE PROCESS."

10. WHEN ASKED HIS OPINION ON WHAT WOULD BE THE U.S. REACTION TO A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE BY ISRAEL AGAINST SYRIA, SENATOR PERCY REPLIED, "I WOULD PREFER TO COMMUNICATE IN THAT KIND OF A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION MY REACTIONS DIRECTLY TO THE RULERS OF ISRAEL, BUT I THINK YOU WOULD KNOW HOW STRONGLY I WOULD FEEL ABOUT THAT AND THAT SUCH AN ACTION WOULD DESTROY, IN THE MIDST OF THE STEP BY STEP PROCESS, THE MAGNIFICENT OPPORTUNITY WE NOW HAVE TO CREATE SUCCESS IN THIS PROGRAM AND NOT FAILURE. THE FORCE OF ARMS HAS FAILED IN THE PAST. EVERYONE IS LESS WELL OFF AS A RESULT OF THEM. HAVE WE NOT LEARNED OUR LESSON AND CAN WE NOT LEARN THAT LESSON? THIS IS THE TIME TO DO IT. TIME IS RUNNING OUT AND I THINK THAT, WE ALL MUST RECOGNIZE, PRESENTS A DANGER WHICH WE WISH TO AVOID."

11. REPLYING TO QUESTIONS ON DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN EGYPT THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED DURING HIS TRIP AND HOW IT WOULD BE FINANCED, SENATOR PERCY SAID THAT SUCH A PROGRAM "WOULD HAVE TO BE TIED IN WITH OVERALL PLANS OF EGYPT. IT WOULD BE THEIR PLAN. I AM SIMPLY SAYING THAT WE HAVE THE CAPABILITY -- IMMENSE CAPABILITY -- OF MOVING AHEAD DRAMATICALLY IN THE ECONOMIC AREA. WE HAVE THE RESOURCES UNCLASSIFIED

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AVAILABLE...YOU HAVE THE MONEY FROM THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES THAT HAVE HUGE SURPLUSES, SO MUCH SO THAT THEY HAVE DIFFICULTY INVESTING IT NOW...IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF WORLD STABILITY THAT PART OF THAT MONEY STAY RIGHT IN THE ARAB NATIONS THAT ARE DEVELOPING AND HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS...YOU HAVE ALSO SKILLED AND EDUCATED MANPOWER AND A TREMENDOUSLY DYNAMIC GOVERNMENT, AS I SEE IT. I MET AND AM DEEPLY IMPRESSED WITH THE CALIBER AND QUALITY AND DEVOTION OF THE MINISTERS OF THIS GOVERNMENT AND OBVIOUSLY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT...WE WANT TO WORK TO SUPPORT THE PLANS THAT COME FROM THIS REGION. I THINK

WHAT THE WORLD WANTS..IS AMERICAN KNOW-HOW, TECHNOLOGY,
EXPERIENE...WE WILL TAKE OUT TECHNOLOGY AND KNOW-HOW
AND, CERTAINLY FOR THIS VITAL AREA OF THE WORLD AND FOR
OUR FRIENDS IN EGYPT, WE WILL GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO
DOING WHAT WE CAN TO SHARE THAT KNOWLEDGE...OUR PROGRAM
HERE IS A SYMBOL THAT WE WISH TO DO WHAT WE CAN ECONOMICALLY,
AND EVEN MORE THAN THAT IS SHARING TECHNOLOGY AND KNOW-HOW
WHICH IS PRICELESS AND WHICH WE, WITHOUT ANY RESTRAINTS,
SAY IS AVAILABLE."
MAESTRONE

NOTE: PARA 8 AS RECEIVED.

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